

What is claimed is:

1. A disposable garment made from a number of individual panels, said garment comprising:

at least two individual panels which, when attached together, form said garment,
each said panel formed from non-woven material,

5 each said panel having one or more panel edges which, when joined to corresponding edges on other of said panels form said garment;

means for joining said panel edges one to the other,

said joining means comprising elasticized material attached to one said edge on one said panel and to one said corresponding edge on another said panel,

10 said elasticized material made to stretch in a direction of major stress when said garment is worn whereby said panels are not stretched.

2. The construction as recited in Claim 1 wherein said non-woven material is formed from polypropylene fibers.

3. The construction as recited in Claim 1 wherein said elasticized material is formed from non-woven elastomeric meltblown fabric.

4. The construction as recited in Claim 1 wherein said elasticized material is a stretch bonded laminate formed from non-woven elastomeric meltblown fabric.

5. The construction as recited in Claim 1 wherein said panels include a layer formed from non-woven absorbent material.

6. The construction as recited in Claim 5 wherein said absorbent material is a hydrophilic fiber.

7. The construction as recited in Claim 5 wherein said panels include an inner layer of semipermeable material covering said absorbent layer.

8. The construction as recited in Claim 7 wherein said semipermeable material is formed from non-woven polymeric material.

9. The construction as recited in Claim 8 wherein said non-woven material is selected from polypropylene or polyethylene fibers.

10. A disposable shirt or shirt-like garment, said garment comprising:
a first shirt panel having a left side edge, a right side edge, a top edge and a bottom
edge;
a second shirt panel having a left side edge, a right side edge, a top edge and a bottom
5 edge,
said first and second shirt panels formed from non-woven material;
means for joining selected of said panel edges one to the other,
said joining means comprising elasticized material attached to one said selected edge
on said first shirt panel and to one said selected edge on said second shirt panel,
10 said elasticized material made to stretch in a direction of major stress when said
garment is worn.

11. The apparatus as recited in Claim 10 wherein said shirt is formed by joining
selected portions of said first and second panel top edges one to the other to form a top seam,
and
using said joining means to attach selected portions of said first and second panel left
5 side edges one to the other to form a left seam, and selected portions of said first and second
panel right side edges one to the other to form a right seam,
said left seam and said top seam defining therebetween a left arm opening,
said right seam and said top seam defining therebetween a right arm opening,
said attached portions of said top seam defining a neck opening.

12. The apparatus as recited in Claim 11 wherein said joining means is made to stretch in a direction generally perpendicular to said left and right seams to allow said first and second panels to move apart one from the other when one or both of said left and right seams are stressed.

13. The apparatus as recited in Claim 11 wherein said top seam is formed by using said joining means to attach selected portions of said first and second top edges together one to the other.

14. The apparatus as recited in Claim 10 wherein said non-woven material is formed from polypropylene fibers.

15. The construction as recited in Claim 10 wherein said elasticized material is formed from non-woven elastomeric meltblown fabric.

16. The construction as recited in Claim 10 wherein said elasticized material is a stretch bonded laminate formed from non-woven elastomeric meltblown fabric.

17. The construction as recited in Claim 10 wherein said panels include a layer formed from non-woven absorbent material.

18. The construction as recited in Claim 17 wherein said absorbent material is a hydrophilic fiber.

19. The construction as recited in Claim 17 wherein said panels include an inner layer of semipermeable material covering said absorbent layer.

20. The construction as recited in Claim 19 wherein said semipermeable material is formed from non-woven polymeric material.

21. The construction as recited in Claim 20 wherein said non-woven material is selected from polypropylene or polyethylene fibers.

22. A disposable pants or pant-like garment, said garment comprising:

a first panel having a left side edge, a right side edge, a top edge and a bottom edge,

said bottom edge having a left segment generally perpendicular to said left side edge, a

first inseam segment extending from said leg segment, a second inseam segment extending

5 from said first inseam segment and a right segment extending from said second inseam

segment to and generally perpendicular to said right edge;

a second panel having a left side edge, a right side edge, a top edge and a bottom

edge,

said bottom edge having a left segment generally perpendicular to said left side edge, a

10 first inseam segment extending from said leg segment, a second inseam segment extending

from said first inseam segment and a right segment extending from said second inseam

segment to and generally perpendicular to said right edge;

said first and second panels formed from non-woven material;

means for joining selected of said panel edges one to the other,

15 said joining means comprising elasticized material attached to one said selected edge

on said first panel and to one said selected edge on said second panel,

said elasticized material made to stretch in a direction of major stress when said garment is worn.

23. The apparatus as recited in Claim 22 wherein said garment is formed by joining said first and second left inseam segments one to the other to form a left inseam,

joining said first and second right inseam segments one to the other to form a right inseam, and

5 using said joining means to attach selected portions of said first and second panel left side edges one to the other to form a left leg seam, and selected portions of said first and second panel right side edges one to the other to form a right leg seam,

said left leg seam and said left inseam defining therebetween a left leg opening,

said right leg seam and said right inseam defining therebetween a right leg opening,

10 said unseamed top edge defining a top opening extending from said left leg seam to said right leg seam.

24. The apparatus as recited in Claim 23 wherein said joining means is made to stretch in a direction generally perpendicular to said left and right leg seams to allow said first and second panels to move apart one from the other when one or both of said left and right seams are stressed.

25. The apparatus as recited in Claim 23 wherein said left and right inseams are formed by using said joining means to attach said first and second left inseams together and said first and second right inseams together.

26. The apparatus as recited in Claim 22 wherein said non-woven material is formed from polypropylene fibers.

27. The construction as recited in Claim 22 wherein said elasticized material is formed from non-woven elastomeric meltblown fabric.

28. The construction as recited in Claim 22 wherein said elasticized material is a stretch bonded laminate formed from non-woven elastomeric meltblown fabric.

29. The construction as recited in Claim 22 wherein said panels include a layer formed from non-woven absorbent material.

30. The construction as recited in Claim 29 wherein said absorbent material is a hydrophilic fiber.

31. The construction as recited in Claim 29 wherein said panels include an inner layer of semipermeable material covering said absorbent layer.

32. The construction as recited in Claim 31 wherein said semipermeable material is formed from non-woven polymeric material.

33. The construction as recited in Claim 32 wherein said non-woven material is selected from polypropylene or polyethylene fibers.

34. The apparatus as recited in Claim 23 wherein said garment included a crotch seam,

said crotch seam formed from said top edge of said first panel to that point at which said first and second first panel inseam segments meet, and from said top edge of second panel to that point at which said first and second panel inseam segments meet,

at least a portion of said crotch seam formed by attaching said joining means to said non-woven material.